

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 RSC-01 /019 W

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R 301400Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3371

INFO AMEMBASSYBEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

UNCLAS AMMAN 7758

BEIRUT FOR RTDO

BEIRUT ALSO POUCH BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, JO

SUBJ: RAILWAY EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY MISSION

REF: STATE 271974

1. WE NOTE FROM PARA 2 REF THAT JORDAN NOT INCLUDED IN PROPOSED ITINERARY FOR SUBJECT MISSION, HOWEVER, WE SUGGEST IT MIGHT BE WORTHWHILE FOR A FEW MISSION MEMBERS TO VISIT JORDAN FOR A SHORT TIME AFTER CONCLUSION OF REGULAR MISSION SCHEDULE. OUR FEELING IS THAT VISIT BY FULL MISSION IS UNNECESSARY, BUT CERTAIN MEMBERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE INVOLVED WITH EQUIPMENT, MAINTENANCE, AND CONSTRUCTION, WOULD FIND IT VALUABLE TO VISIT AMMAN.

2. KILLOUGH SURVEY REPORT COVERS LOCAL MARKET VERY WELL, BUT TWO NEW FACTORS HAVE RECENTLY COME TO LIGHT WHICH WERE NOT INCLUDED IN REPORT. ONE IS JORDANIAN PLAN TO DOUBLE AMOUNT OF TRACK BETWEEN AL-HASSA PHOSPHATE MINES AND AQABA PORT TO PERMIT GREATER CAPACITY FOR PHOSPHATE

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TRANSPORT/EXPORT. THE OTHER IS SNAG WITH BRITISH SUPPLIER OF

HOPPER CARS FOR HAULING PHOSPHATE ROCK. HEAD
OF AQABA RAILWAY AUTHORITY INDICATES THAT DELIVERY
WILL BE DELAYED AND PLANS TO LOOK ELSEWHERE FOR FUTURE
ORDERS.

3. WE ARE AWARE THAT JORDANIAN MARKET SMALL, AND THAT
RESCHEDULING MISSION DIFFICULT AT THIS LATE DATE, BUT
A SHORT VISIT BY CERTAIN MEMBERS WOULD DEFINATELY BE
WORTHWHILE. WE NOTE FROM JIDDA RESPONSE THAT PROGRAM
THERE WOULD PROBABLY NOT TAKE FULL SCHEDULED TIME OF
18 TO 24 FEBRUARY. THEREFORE, WE REQUEST YOU CONSULT
MISSION MEMBERS TO SEE IF A FEW WOULD LIKE TO VISIT
JORDAN ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, FEB 22ND AND 23RD.
IF SO, WE WILL ATTEMPT TO SET UP FULL DAY OF APPOINTMENTS
SATUDAY, AND PRIVATE VISIT TO AQABA PORT VIA EXISTING
RAILWAY FOR SUNDAY. PLS ADVISE ASAP.
SUDDARTH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974AMMAN07758
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740377-0201
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974126/aaaaaehk.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 STATE 271974
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUL 2002 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <27 DEC 2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RAILWAY EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY MISSION
TAGS: BEXP, JO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005